have been brought to the notice of the Government through leading newspapers. No centralized data is being maintained in this regard.

The Government has taken note of the problem of Ragging in Universities/Colleges. In order to explore the measures for curbing of Ragging in Universities & colleges, the UGC in September, 1999 constituted an expert committee. The report of expert committee was circulated to all universities for necessary action. Besides, the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Petition No. 656 of 1998 on curbing the menace of ragging in the educational institutions, have been circulated to all the State/UT Governments/universities for strict compliance. The Commission has also invited the attention of the universities to the report of the committee constituted by the I.I.T. Delhi on measures to curb ragging. AICTE has also issued instructions to all the State Secretaries (Technical Education) and Vice-Chancellors of Technical Universities for taking necessary steps to prevent ragging in the Institutes.

Scholarships and bank loans to students for higher education

420. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of arrangements made by Government to provide scholarships and bank loans for getting the higher education from the institutions affiliated with the Ministry during the current financial year;

(b) the number of students in the State of Assam provided with the scholarships and bank loans for higher education during the years 2001 -2002 and 2002-2003; and

(c) the number of SC and ST students benefited in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Global gender parity index

421. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has studied the recently released Education for All global monitoring report on gender parity in education;